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CARONDOLET COKE	SITE,	ST.	LOUIS,	<b>MISSOU</b>	RI
BRIEFING PAP	ER/ST	TTA	JS REP	ORT	

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As requested, I have prepared this briefing paper on the Carondolet Coke site in St. Louis, Missouri. Laclede Gas Company, one of the potentially responsible parties (PRP) for contamination at the Carondolet Coke site, enrolled the site in the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) in October 1995. Neither Laclede Gas (nor any of the other PRPs) has taken any investigative or remedial action at the site since its enrollment in the VCP.

Because no action has been taken at the site, the VCP has scheduled a meeting for October 28, 1997, to discuss what actions may be taken by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and/or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to compel the PRPs to investigate and, as necessary, remediate the site. Representatives of DNR, EPA, Laclede Gas, and St. Louis Development Corporation will be present at the meeting.

A brief description and history of the site follow.

SITE NAME: Carondolet Coke Corporation

ADDRESS/LOCATION: 526 East Catalan Street, St. Louis, Missouri; 41 acres at the confluence of the Mississippi River and the River Des Peres, lying north of the River Des Peres.

CONTAMINATION: The site is a former coking operation and manufactured gas plant. The contaminants both identified and presumed to exist on the site include polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), cyanide, metals, asbestos, possibly benzene, toluene, xylene. Contaminants have been detected in site soils and are presumed to exist in ground water beneath the site. Contaminant detections came during a DNR-Superfund Section investigation of the site.

**POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES:** Carondolet Coke Corporation, Laclede Gas Company, Great Lakes Carbon, and others.

STATUS: The site is currently neither a state registry site nor a National Priorities List (NPL) site. Laclede Gas Company enrolled the site in the DNR-VCP in October 1995. The VCP project manager is Timothy Chibnall (573/526-8913). The DNR-Superfund contact for the site is Julie Kelsey (573/751-3176).

## HISTORY:

General

• The plant was in operation to produce coke for various purposes, primarily metallurgical grade coke.

1916 - 1950

• The Carondolet Coke plant is built in 1916. Laclede Gas owns and operates the site.

1950 - 1982 • The site is owned and operated by Great Lakes Carbon Company.



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## BRIEFING PAPER PAGE 2

- 1982 1987 The site is owned and operated by Carondolet Coke, Inc.
- 1987 The plant closes in October.
- Due to Carondolet Coke's failure to pay property taxes, the City of St. Louis acquires the property.
- A Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the site is completed by the DNR-Superfund Section. Further action is recommended.
  - Laclede Gas applies to enter the site into the VCP.
- A Site Inspection Sampling is conducted by the DNR-Superfund Section in April. The Site Inspection report recommends additional action to address extensive soil contamination, delineate ground water contamination, and investigate the site's potential impact on the adjacent Mississippi River and the River Des Peres.
  - Carondolet Coke site (Laclede Gas Company's application) is accepted into the VCP.
  - Spirtas Wrecking Company applies to the VCP in July to enroll the site into the program for oversight of aboveground structure demolition. Spirtas' application is approved and the site is accepted into the VCP in August. Demolition of aboveground structures east of the on-site railroad tracks begins.
  - The VCP approves Laclede Gas' proposed plan for investigation of ground water beneath the site (plan is not implemented).
- St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC) sends out a "Request for Proposal" to area developers. Five proposals are received. SLDC, DNR, and Laclede Gas interview the developers regarding their plans for the site. None of the development plans are deemed acceptable by the interview team, with the final decision resting with SLDC. SLDC opts not to pursue development with any of the companies submitting proposals.
  Spirtas Wrecking Company finishes demolition of structures east of railroad tracks
  - Spirtas Wrecking Company finishes demolition of structures east of railroad tracks (demolition of the structures east of the railroad tracks referred to as "phase I"; demolition of structures west of the railroad tracks referred to as "phase II"). Phase II demolition activities scheduled to begin; to date they have not.

Current Status • Laclede Gas has yet to implement their plan for investigation of ground water at the site. At the point of their application, Laclede made clear that they were contributing a finite amount of resources (\$50,000) toward the investigation of the Carondolet Coke site. To date, Laclede has not conducted any investigation of the site.

The other PRPs have been unwilling to come forward to investigate the site. DNR and EPA have held joint meetings with the PRPs to discuss the future of the site. These meetings have not caused the PRPs to come forward. The City of St. Louis, an innocent landowner, does not have the resources to commit to the site.

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## BRIEFING PAPER PAGE 3

The VCP does not have the regulatory authority to compel the PRPs to investigate or remediate the Carondolet Coke site. If the VCP participant does not take action, the VCP can only remove them from the program. In the case of Carondolet Coke, the DNR has warned Laclede Gas and the other PRPs that, should the site be removed or withdrawn from the VCP, the site will be placed back into the Superfund program. The DNR-Superfund Section has said that, if need be, an Environmental Site Inspection of the site would be conducted in April 1998.

As mentioned above, the VCP has scheduled a meeting between DNR, EPA, SLDC, and Laclede Gas Company for October 28, 1997, in Jefferson City, Missouri. The purpose of the meeting is to attempt to compel Laclede Gas Company to investigate the site under the VCP and to discuss options available to the DNR and EPA to address the site. DNR and EPA will meet from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. to discuss options available to compel Laclede to act. From 10:30 a.m. until approximately 12:00 p.m., DNR, EPA, SLDC, and Laclede Gas will meet.

TC:pah

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Mct Camahan, Covernor + David A. Shorr, Director

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

October 9, 1997

Mr. Bryant Burnett
Site Assessment Manager
U.S. EPA, Region VII
SUPR/SACR
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101

Dear Mr. Burnett:

Enclosed is the briefing paper/status report you requested regarding the Carondolet Coke site in St. Louis, Missouri. I trust the paper provides you with the information you require regarding the history and status of the site. However, should you require additional information, or should you have questions about the paper, please contact me at your convenience at (573)526-8913.

Sincerely,

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Timothy Chibnall

Environmental Specialist

Voluntary Cleanup Section

TC:pah

c: Baerbel Schiller; USEPA, Region VII

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